NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2015
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

ARKANSAS				
Soybean	Extra Light Amber	$1.92		
DAKOTA				
Clover	White	$2.00	-	$2.09
Clover	Extra Light Amber	$2.06		
Wildflowers	White	$2.06		
FLORIDA				
Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	$1.85		
Wildflowers	Extra Light Amber	$1.85	-	$1.95
KANSAS				
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	$3.00		
LOUISIANA				
Tupelo	Light Amber	$1.85		
MINNESOTA				
Clover	White	$2.01		
MONTANA				
Alfalfa	White	$2.06		
Clover	White	$2.00	-	$2.01
NEBRASKA				
Clover	White	$2.00		
WASHINGTON				
Wildflower	Light Amber	$1.85		
WISCONSIN				
Clover	White	$2.35		

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Canola	White	$1.92	-	$1.98
Mixed Flower	White	$2.02		

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA				
Mixed Flowers	White	$1.86	-	$2.13
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	$1.92	-	$2.13
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	$1.92	-	$1.94
BRAZIL				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	$1.87		
ORGANIC	Extra Light	$1.92	-	$1.98
ORGANIC	Light Amber	$1.92	-	$1.93
ORGANIC	Amber	$1.93		
INDIA				
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	$1.69		
Mustard	Extra Light	$1.48		
Mustard	Light Amber	$1.48		
UKRAINE				
Mixed Flower	Extra Light	$1.64	-	$1.71
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	$1.69		
Sunflower	White	$1.69	-	$1.71
Sunflower	Extra Light	$1.64	-	$1.71
VIETNAM	White	$1.66	-	$1.68
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	$1.35	-	$1.51
Mixed Flowers	Amber	$1.37		

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY, 2015

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Last month managed to be the second coldest February in the district's history with high temperatures below the freezing mark, lows in a range from single digits to below zero and wind chills making the temperature feel even lower. Several winter storms blanketed the area with snow and ice, which remained for most of the month as temperatures remained 5-15 degrees below normal. The southern part of the district received more snow (10-13 inches overall) than normal and more than the northern parts of the district. Beekeepers are concerned for the survival rates of colonies given the bitter cold and will be checking colonies in the next few weeks as temperatures rise. Budding of trees is about 1-2 weeks behind normal and early nectar sources, such as skunk cabbage, are delayed as many are still under snow cover. Colony activity has been very minimal due to the bitter cold temperatures. Lastly, the Maryland Department of Agriculture received approval, under the emergency exemption program from the EPA, to allow the use of potassium salt of hop beta acids to control varroa mites, which have been an increasing issue in honeybee colonies in Maryland.

ALABAMA: February 2015 in Alabama experienced a mixture of weather. Temperatures were below average for the most part statewide and fairly wet. There were, however, a few days warm enough for foraging activity. South Alabama beekeepers are reporting expanding brood with pollen and even some nectar being collected. Red maple, Japanese magnolia and several weed species are blooming and bees are working them. North Alabama bees are at least 2-3 weeks behind those in South Alabama. Daily high temps have been significantly below the norm in the areas of Birmingham and northward. Many of these areas received snow and ice on several occasions, which has slowed their buildup in a major way. Some beekeepers are feeding supplements but most had plenty of food stores going into winter. Early reports of losses are coming in, especially from the northern part of the state, but it is too early to really tell the whole story. Winter doesn't seem to want to let go this year.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were below normal during the first week of February, and above normal for the remainder of the month. Temperatures ranged from a high of 91ºF at Yuma to a low of 8ºF at Grand Canyon. Precipitation was received at 8, 0, 5 and 22 out of 22 reporting stations during each weekly reporting period, respectively.

Many Arizona bee colonies remained out of state during the first part of the month for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere, especially in California. However, towards the end of the month, preparations were being made for some colonies to return to the state. Alfalfa, various citrus and desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state.

Demand for honey remained good across Arizona.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of February were from various trees. Colonies were in generally good condition at the end of the month. Weather has seen below normal temperatures with an abundance of freezing rain and snow. No hive beetles are present. The weather should be improving over the next few weeks so the bees will be out and about. Supply is low while demand remains high.

CALIFORNIA: The bees are being moved from the almond orchards into the cherry and stone fruit orchards. The warm winter has caused the plants in the foothills and mountains to bloom earlier than normal so some hives will miss out on honey plants simply because they will be done blooming by the time cherry and stone fruit pollination is complete.

It was another warm month, as temperatures averaged 10-15 degrees above normal for most of the state. Temperatures were in the upper 80s in the interior Northern Valley. Low to mid 90s were common in the southern portions of the state, including the Los Angeles basin. Low temperatures were in the 50s in the south and in the teens and 20s in the mountains and far northeast. Lows in the rest of the state were mostly in the 40s. There were some scattered light showers mainly in the central and northern portions of the state. These areas received mostly under a quarter of an inch at a time. The heaviest rains fell over the northwest coast, with local totals sometimes exceeding over half of an inch. Little to no snow was reported in the mountain areas.

FLORIDA: Temperatures and precipitation for the month of February were about normal, with three cold snaps of a few days each scattered throughout the month. These cold spells essentially ended any remaining maple, willow or Spanish Needle bloom, except in Southern Florida. They also led to some hive losses from the toxic yellow jasmine plant which was not killed by the cold temperatures. Yellow jasmine nectar contains a toxic compound which will kill all of the bees in a hive. When other sources of nectar are available, bees will usually not harvest yellow jasmine. However, when it is about the only source of nectar available, bees will sometimes harvest it and it will destroy the hive. Hive losses from yellow jasmine are expected to be very small. Bee health is considered to be excellent. Supplemental feeding was needed with very few natural sources of food available. Citrus is the next source of food and is expected to start around the first of March, about one week earlier than normal. Florida sent approximately 165,000 hives to California for almond pollination, with some already returning home before the end of the month. The pollination usually ends in Northern California around the first of March and in Southern California about the middle of March. This year's season appears to have started about a week early and is expected to end about a week early in both areas.

Very light supplies and good demand are keeping honey prices at or near historical highs. Orange blossom, tupelo and gallberry will be the next honey crops harvested in Florida. Some beekeepers are anticipating the price of the new honey to be about 10% higher than last year's price.

GEORGIA: In the northern part of the state, extremely cold temperatures including snow and rain have caused problems for the bees. Some losses as high as 40% have been reported. Extra heavy feeding has been needed as some of the hives have used up much of what was available earlier. The winter Maple and Elm started in bloom but the subfreezing temperatures came along affecting the bees. In the central and southern parts of the state, bees are reported to be in good condition and the beekeepers are checking on the hives and preparing the queens and nucs for restocking. They have been very busy during the days the weather cooperates. Most of the beekeepers have good management practices in place to prevent losses from beetles and mites. The beekeepers that have sent bees west for the almond bloom are starting to head back home and prepare for the spring nectar flow coming up soon.

Prices for honey remain steady and high, however many beekeepers have sold out until the July harvest.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were significantly above normal across the states of Idaho, Utah, and Colorado during the month of February, according to the National Weather Service. One beekeeper said it was more like spring than winter. Some locations averaged as much as 13 or 14 degrees above normal historic February conditions. During the same period, precipitation was slightly above normal in northern areas of Idaho and most of Colorado, and at normal levels east of Salt Lake City in Utah. Southern Idaho, most of Utah, and Northwest Colorado had below normal precipitation this month. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Idaho's Upper Panhandle was abnormally dry, with severe drought conditions also to the west and southwest of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The central area of Idaho, most of Utah, and Southeastern Colorado had drought conditions that ranged from moderate to severe. The rest of the area had normal moisture conditions. According to the Western US SNOTEL snow/precipitation update, Colorado was at 85% of median on snow water equivalent and Utah was at 65% as of late February. One Utah beekeeper placed a positive spin on the current drought conditions in the state. He stated that despite the dry conditions and lack of a good snowpack, these conditions could actually benefit beekeepers during the summer of 2015, because land owners are more likely to cut alfalfa later in the bloom process thereby giving bees more time to gather nectar

Commercial beekeepers have indicated that the almond pollination in California has gone very quickly this year due to ideal weather conditions. Most beekeepers expect to have final approval to remove their bees from almond pollination areas by the first week of March. Some Southern areas of almonds were pollinated by the last week of February. This year has been one of the fastest periods for a complete pollination in a long time according to

beekeepers. Almond pollination contracts ended at around $180.00 for an 8 frame hive and $195.00 for a 10 frame hive. Commercial Beekeepers have been very satisfied with the economic benefits that the almond pollination has provided as a source of revenue. According to beekeepers, overall quality of bees is good for this time of year in Idaho and Utah, and average for Colorado.

Some beekeepers indicated that they will leave their bees in the warmer California climate until anytime from late March to mid-May. During the almond pollination, bees did make some honey, which will help provide for the hives in the short term. Bees that stay in California will have some opportunities to continue collecting some pollen and nectar in a lot warmer conditions than back in their home states. Some Colorado bees will also travel to other Southern States after leaving California. Very few bees will go back to Colorado right after almond pollination due to the continued cold temperatures. Any bees that go back to any of these states right after pollination will require supplemental feeding after the honey stores are exhausted. Sugar syrup, corn syrup and/or a blend will be utilized. Some beekeepers will also utilize pollen supplements after April so they can help stimulate new brood production. One beekeeper stated that they always have some supplemental feed available as a maintenance backup.

It is certainly not profitable to supplement bee's diet with other sources besides honey stores, but without these supplements many hives would simply not be able to survive due to the heavy work load. Varroa mites continue to be an ongoing management issue. Some beekeepers plan to conduct some mite count checks after the almond pollination, treating where necessary. Cumulative losses for the past year are running between 10 and 12 percent for many commercial beekeepers in Idaho; this percent of loss is not abnormal. Cumulative losses for many commercial beekeepers in Utah for the past year are running between 20 and 24 percent. One Colorado beekeeper stated that colony collapse disorder in his opinion was over rated and in his opinion was more of a varroa mite issue where mites were a problem before they were detected. Overall losses of Colorado bees in California are running around 10 percent for many commercial beekeepers; again, this percent of loss is not abnormal.

Beekeepers will also begin dividing and re-queening bees while still in California during March for bees from Idaho. Whatever dividing and re-queening is not completed in California, will be completed after arriving back in Idaho. This process will be a little later for the bees arriving back in Utah after the almond pollination, starting by mid-March, while Colorado beekeepers will begin during late March and early April.

Wholesale demand for honey is fairly light, but does exceed the current supply levels. Very little wholesale honey is left uncommitted at this time. Some small amounts of honey have been retained for local retail sales.

Moving forward to the summer of 2015, there is an increasing concern among beekeepers about locations where they can place their hives. With more and more landowners choosing to plant corn or soybeans and less alfalfa and clover, competition for prime land to place bees becomes more of a challenge for commercial beekeepers. Beekeepers anticipate that within the next few years there could be concerns about future free trade agreements. These future agreements could potentially open up our United States borders to more cheap imported honey from additional foreign countries that do not currently sell to our country.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of February were above normal, with temperatures from the low teens to below zero for the beginning and middle of the month and ranging around 12-15 degrees toward the end of the month. A few beekeepers report that due to inclement temperatures and heavy snowfall, there were days when they were not able assess the condition of their hives. However there were a few days in the 20s and 30s that the beekeepers were able to check on their bees as a few beekeepers report some losses of hives as well as some of their hives being in fairly good to good condition. Most beekeepers are still administering supplemental feeding.

Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Arctic and very cold conditions produced record temperatures throughout the region. Temperatures were far below normal. Precipitation varied, mostly in the form of snowfall. Some areas had drought relief as some of the wettest days on record occurred. Others received little or no relief.

As the new year starts, beekeepers are back at it presenting and attending classes, meeting, workshops and sourcing package bees. Package bees will remain in high demand as prices continue to remain high. Beekeepers are in preparation for the return of bees from the California almond pollination season. Beekeepers are reporting mixed views on mite damage and colony loss. Honey demand remains good as prices remain about the same.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of February were mostly above normal with high winds and minimal amounts of snow. Temperatures fell below zero with a few days rising to the low 20s and occasionally 30s toward the middle and end of the month. A few beekeepers report some hive losses as others report their bees in fair to good condition. Due to the inclement weather beekeepers haven't generally been able to assess the condition of their bees.

Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: Although Kentucky started the month with mild temperatures in the 60s and many beekeepers reported seeing good bee flight and managed to get another round of feed, the month has ended with fifteen straight days of below normal temperatures, heavy snowfall, and record low temperatures across the state. Eastern Kentucky experienced the heaviest snowfall in the state at 17 inches, and the Bluegrass region experienced temperatures as low as -31ºF. Thus far, no nectar or pollen sources are available.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of February were from various trees. Colonies were in generally good to fair condition. Weather has seen about average temperatures with above normal rainfall. Supply is low and demand is fairly good.

MICHIGAN: This was one of the coldest Februarys in recent years, along with lots of snow. Beekeepers have found it difficult to do much with hives given the weather conditions. There is grave concern that a thaw is greatly needed. The longer confinement stresses bees and predisposes the hives to disease, along with the risk of starvation due to the inability to supplement extra feed for the bees' sustenance. Some beekeepers are certain they have some losses given the wintry conditions.

Local honey supplies are dwindling, as demand remains fairly strong and prices mostly unchanged. Many package producers around the state have nearly sold out of bees for the upcoming spring season.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were much below normal across the entire State of Minnesota during the month of February. Those temperatures ranged from 7 to 11 degrees below normal for historic February conditions. Precipitation was below normal across most areas of the state during the same

period, with the exception of slightly above normal snowfall in the North Central area around International Falls, according the National Weather Service. The U.S. Drought Monitor now indicates abnormally dry conditions over the entire state.

Commercial beekeepers have indicated that the almond pollination in California has been gone very quickly this year due to ideal weather conditions. Most beekeepers expect to have final approval to remove their bees from almond pollination areas by the first week of March. Some southern areas of almonds were pollinated by the last week of February. This year has been one of the fastest periods for a complete pollination in a long time according to beekeepers. Almond pollination contracts ended at around $180.00 for an 8 frame hive and $195.00 for a 10 frame hive. Minnesota Commercial Beekeepers have been very satisfied with the economic benefits that the almond pollination has provided as a revenue source.
According to beekeepers, overall quality of bees is good for this time of year.

Some beekeepers indicated that they will leave their bees in the warmer California climate until Mid-May while others will move some of their commercial bees to other southern states. While in California the bees did make some honey during the almond pollination process, which will help provide for the hives in the short term. Bees that stay in California will have some opportunities to continue collecting some pollen and nectar in a lot warmer conditions than back in colder Minnesota. Right after pollination some beekeepers will start supplemental feeding on an as-needed basis after the honey stores are exhausted. Sugar syrup, corn syrup and/or a blend will be utilized. Some beekeepers will also utilize pollen supplements so they can help stimulate new brood production. One beekeeper stated that they always have some supplemental feed available as a maintenance backup. It is hoped that bees moved to southern states will have opportunities for early pollen and nectar flows.

It is certainly not profitable to supplement bee's diet with other sources besides honey stores, but without these supplements many hives would simply not be able to survive due to the heavy work load of the bees. Varroa mites continue to be an ongoing management issue. Some beekeepers plan to conduct some mite count checks after the almond pollination, treating where necessary. Overall losses of Minnesota bees in California are running around 18% for many commercial beekeepers. One beekeeper stated that this percentage of loss was not out of the normal. Beekeepers will also begin dividing and re-queening bees while still in California or in other southern states during the middle of March and early April.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and exceeds the current supply levels. Very little wholesale honey is left uncommitted at this time. Moving forward to the summer of 2015, there is a continuing concern about locations where beekeepers can place their hives. With more and more landowners choosing to plant corn or soybeans and less alfalfa and clover, competition for prime nectar-producing land to place bees becomes more of a challenge for commercial beekeepers.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers report that most of the bees are in good shape at this point. The weather conditions were very wet and cold and the bees remained inside the hives. Most are being fed with extra protein patties and sugars until it warms up and the bees can begin to forage. Management of the hives for beetles and mites is ongoing to prevent any extra losses for this spring.

MONTANA: During February the month began unseasonably warm and dry and ended cold with snow showers. Precipitation was widespread across the state. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of February measured 3% very short (compared to 5% last year), 16% short (17% last year), 75% adequate (73% last year) and 6% surplus (5% last year). Subsoil moisture measured 20% short and very short, while 80% of subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus.

Beekeepers were busy with equipment repair and inspection of overwintering colonies in home yards. No natural sources of pollen or nectar were available. Many Montana colonies were at other locations, mostly California or warmer storage sites, for the pollination of the nut, stone fruit, or blueberry crops. The health of the migratory colonies was said to be generally good. Honey demand was good.

NEW ENGLAND: In New England, the month of February experienced extreme cold with below seasonal temperatures. Precipitation has been mainly from snowfall which has resulted in high moisture levels for the entire region and should provide conditions for abundant spring pollen and nectar sources. Overnight temperatures were in the single digits, while daytime highs were in the teens and single digits combined with high winds creating an uncomfortable wind-chill effect.

Beekeepers reported that the very cold conditions have kept bees in tight, small clusters with little activity. It's been a hard, harsh winter on the bees coupled with a long confinement period. Particularly in this month, there has been a cross-section of beekeepers reporting widespread heavy colony losses with many dead outs due to severe weather conditions. February losses are not uncommon because the bees are aging and the colonies' honey stores have dwindled. Evidence shows that starvation was this season's biggest killer so far. This winter's weather pushed experienced keepers to put in place ten fall frames (80lbs) of honey and provide at least seven frames in the middle/center of the hive box before winter began. When the weather is as cold as it has been, the bees can freeze in place and cannot migrate to far away frames. Reportedly, some bees starved to death (bottoms poking out of the cells), yet there were 2-3 frames of honey still at the edges of the hive box.

In New England, hives normally lose 5% to 10% of their population due to weather related issues. This season, however, some areas reported losses near 40% to 60% especially in Northern New England. Overall, reported losses are currently at a conservative 40%. As noted, the problem of small clusters within the hive and neglected monitoring for supplemental feedings created many cases of starvation. These colonies exhausted their stores of honey with this problem going unrecognized until it was too late to rectify. Current cold weather requires keepers to feed only solids such as protein patties, fondant, sugar candy or dry granulated sugar around the opening in the inner cover. In Northern elevations, colonies will remain closed and wrapped in their protective layers through March into early April and will receive supplemental feedings throughout this time frame. Additionally, keepers that have kept ahead of the feeding cycle with no breaks in feeding have reported fewer losses. Care should be taken when feeding so as not to induce premature egg laying and additional problems of condensation from poor ventilation which will adversely affect bees more than cold weather. Problems have developed from water/moisture and air infiltration issues whereby continuous freezing temperatures will keep bees from moving from frame to frame to find keeper-placed food even though there were frames still heavy with honey stores. Reportedly, keepers using Styrofoam hive bodies have provided better insulation but these have shown to not stand up well in commercial operations. However, Styrofoam is reportedly better suited for use in making nucleus hives in queen rearing and in the early stages of nucleus buildup. Some keys to winter survival have been the reported practice before winter of sugar dusting, drone comb removal, using screened bottom boards and the application of apiguard and/or formic acid during the first week of August, thus forgoing the last honey flow. The primary pest losses going into this winter were purportedly due to tracheal mites and nosema. Tracheal mites and nosema can reduce a workers lifespan by as much as 80%.

New England beekeepers associations have independently worked toward the development of greenhouse-based winter management of bees to produce locally raised packages, nucleus hives, and queens. This month is traditionally a time for keepers to be occupied in building, repairing, and

maintenance of equipment, checking of shows, fairs, workshops, and planning bee association classes as well as nucleus hives and package bee pick-ups. The New England honey crop this past year showed an average of 30 to 50 pounds per colony.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were $9.00 to $12.00 mostly $12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 quart bottled units were $18.00 to $20.00 mostly $20.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at $195.00 to $240.00 mostly $230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around $2.50 to $2.80 per pound, mostly $2.80 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is $14.00 to $17.00 mostly $16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is $26.00 to $30.00 mostly $28.00 per quart. Honey sales have remained consistently strong for local domestic honey, with the highest prices historically being paid for premium honey.

NEW YORK: The month has brought very cold temperatures to the state. There have only been two days in the past two months that afforded bees the opportunity for cleansing flights. There have already been some colony losses in the central region, and some beekeepers fear there will be additional dead hives in the final weeks of winter and before the advent of spring. With the Great Lakes nearly frozen over (94%+), Cayuga Lake (Finger Lakes) is more frozen than at any time in the past 50 years and the region has been buried in a deep cold snow. These factors point to a slow onset of spring, making it more difficult for beekeepers to access hives and provide supplemental feeding and perform other spring maintenance duties. Some fear the delay will bring more die-offs in the hives. Bee supplies in the southern states may also have a slower start to the season as cooler temperatures have been prevalent in recent weeks as well. However, this weather pattern favors prospects for a good flora season, which could provide better nectar and pollen sources for the remaining healthy colonies.

Honey sales have remained strong with prices stable at this time.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were below normal during February. The state received mostly normal to below normal precipitation, however, there was significant accumulation of snow and ice during the weeks ending February 21 and February 28 leaving statewide soil moisture levels rated at 0.5% short, 35.5% adequate, and
64% surplus. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 37 counties as being abnormally dry; with most of the reported counties being in the Mountain region of the state.

Recent inclement weather may have had a negative impact on weak hives, especially those struggling with varroa mite infestations, but according to apiary inspectors, overall colony health around the state appears to be fairly good for this time of year. Pollen from Red and Sugar Maples was available in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions, but most beekeepers still had to provide supplemental feed to ensure colonies had adequate resources for expansion.

Demand for honey and replacement bees exceeds supply.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: At home growers had generally average temperatures and precipitation. The bees in California were busy working the almond bloom. Despite ongoing drought conditions, the bees were busy with generally great conditions for pollinating the almonds. As the bloom finished, beekeepers made preparations to get the bees ready for their next assignments. Some would remain in California and on the west coast for now, others moving back east. Beekeepers were also working on rearing queens and other activities. There were reports of some bees killed in a spraying incident in California.

OHIO: Beekeepers again have commented that the winter has been “too cold and too long”. Many are optimistic that the weather will break in the upcoming early days of March and allow beekeepers to check on their hives and provide additional feedings to surviving colonies.

Demand for honey remains fairly strong with price pressure also due to the slowdown of imported honey. Some beekeepers have seen local honey demand ease slightly and blame the snowy weather for keeping people home more than usual.

OKLAHOMA: In Oklahoma there are not any natural sources of pollen; therefore, supplement feeding was necessary. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather conditions have seen below average temperatures and above average levels of ice and snow. Supply is low while demand remains constant.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

TEXAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during February were from natural tree pollen including red maples, sweet gum and elm trees. Most bees are in good condition, a few hive beetles are starting to appear. Weather across Texas has been all over the board. From the teens to 70°F, then days below the freezing point with ice and snow. Feeding continues as the weather conditions have been extreme this season. Supply is low while demand remains high.

WASHINGTON: The weather continues to be the topic this season, with adequate rain, but very little snow and warmer than normal temperatures. Bees have been more active than normal with many 50°F and even 60°F days. The mild winter should have been helpful to overwintering hives, but beekeepers continue to monitor their hives and feed as needed. The warmer weather is expected to continue and concerns for irrigation are increasing. If the warm weather continues the bloom for the fruit trees may start earlier and be more compressed.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of February were above normal with temperatures ranging from the low teens to well below zero for most of the month with a lot of snow. A few beekeepers report some hive losses due to insufficient food within the supers, but were generally pleased with the survival of the hives that they have left.

Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale levels. Prices are generally unchanged.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		January 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Afghanistan	566	4,139	566	4,139
Bahamas, The	824	7,419	824	7,419
Barbados	897	5,340	897	5,340
China	29,662	72,000	29,662	72,000
India	37,200	127,410	37,200	127,410
Japan	41,428	217,308	41,428	217,308
Netherlands Antilles(*)	897	5,340	897	5,340
Panama	898	5,341	898	5,341
United Arab Emirates	1,750	6,074	1,750	6,074
NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -				
Bahamas, The	2,685	15,474	2,685	15,474
Canada	63,215	307,724	63,215	307,724
China	1,588	8,183	1,588	8,183
Dominican Republic	3,331	11,200	3,331	11,200
Hong Kong	1,483	3,600	1,483	3,600
India	18,780	55,224	18,780	55,224
Netherlands Antilles(*)	1,701	11,976	1,701	11,976
Philippines	486	3,511	486	3,511
Saudi Arabia	3,576	8,680	3,576	8,680
Singapore	3,265	22,608	3,265	22,608
United Arab Emirates	454	2,595	454	2,595
GRAND TOTAL	214,686	901,146	214,686	901,146

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date			January 2015		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	287,619	1,158,035	1,179,637	287,619	1,158,035	1,179,637
Brazil	293,881	1,276,823	1,308,707	293,881	1,276,823	1,308,707
Canada	689,886	3,126,464	3,144,385	689,886	3,126,464	3,144,385
Dominican Republic	4,632	12,800	13,669	4,632	12,800	13,669
Italy(*)	2,365	12,716	13,786	2,365	12,716	13,786
Mexico	53,068	230,027	230,533	53,068	230,027	230,533
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	1,416	9,183	9,755
Taiwan	36,451	81,371	88,610	36,451	81,371	88,610
Thailand	111,360	278,400	293,400	111,360	278,400	293,400
United Kingdom	300	3,410	4,217	300	3,410	4,217

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	985,362	4,059,670	4,182,006	985,362	4,059,670	4,182,006
Brazil	37,600	155,016	159,881	37,600	155,016	159,881
Canada	27,940	154,420	155,001	27,940	154,420	155,001
India	448,500	1,368,627	1,447,459	448,500	1,368,627	1,447,459
Mexico	157,679	651,723	654,871	157,679	651,723	654,871
Taiwan	95,700	244,035	254,535	95,700	244,035	254,535
Thailand	183,000	499,224	512,088	183,000	499,224	512,088
Ukraine	1,085,863	3,451,283	3,576,887	1,085,863	3,451,283	3,576,887

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	284,581	1,202,728	1,248,907	284,581	1,202,728	1,248,907
Australia(*)	653	8,379	8,622	653	8,379	8,622
Austria	6,748	22,968	24,278	6,748	22,968	24,278
Brazil	75,744	291,481	296,386	75,744	291,481	296,386
Bulgaria	8,858	32,826	35,326	8,858	32,826	35,326
Burma	296,400	735,570	774,760	296,400	735,570	774,760
Cote d'Ivoire	38,400	110,016	110,017	38,400	110,016	110,017
Dominican Republic	97,183	284,508	299,432	97,183	284,508	299,432
Germany(*)	9,504	52,903	56,153	9,504	52,903	56,153
Greece	2,074	5,841	6,418	2,074	5,841	6,418
India	690,180	2,132,712	2,241,565	690,180	2,132,712	2,241,565
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	1,363	8,225	8,493
Italy(*)	1,025	18,904	19,228	1,025	18,904	19,228
Mexico	24,806	88,124	90,733	24,806	88,124	90,733
Pakistan	3,420	12,882	14,170	3,420	12,882	14,170
Spain	800	8,190	8,318	800	8,190	8,318
Taiwan	172,260	398,494	423,094	172,260	398,494	423,094
Thailand	555,955	1,426,476	1,496,816	555,955	1,426,476	1,496,816
Turkey	262,260	734,700	809,700	262,260	734,700	809,700
Ukraine	57,480	188,138	197,643	57,480	188,138	197,643
Vietnam	2,248,440	6,139,735	6,460,623	2,248,440	6,139,735	6,460,623

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Dominican Republic	19,200	55,104	56,704	19,200	55,104	56,704
Egypt	576	2,400	2,513	576	2,400	2,513
Greece	1,929	14,264	15,846	1,929	14,264	15,846
India	12,690	48,579	51,379	12,690	48,579	51,379
Indonesia	40,600	109,620	114,620	40,600	109,620	114,620
Italy(*)	330	3,970	4,238	330	3,970	4,238
Mexico	3,984	6,433	6,540	3,984	6,433	6,540
New Zealand(*)	65,859	963,186	972,901	65,859	963,186	972,901
Poland	3,123	22,135	23,721	3,123	22,135	23,721
Taiwan	576	2,051	2,185	576	2,051	2,185
Turkey	460	3,600	7,100	460	3,600	7,100
Ukraine	2,975	11,190	13,190	2,975	11,190	13,190
Vietnam	602,559	575,479	1,651,555	602,559	1,575,479	1,651,555

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Austria	378	4,131	4,565	378	4,131	4,565
Canada	15,605	130,543	130,794	15,605	130,543	130,794
Egypt	3,999	9,734	10,054	3,999	9,734	10,054
France(*)	20,338	104,875	110,580	20,338	104,875	110,580
Germany(*)	12,540	75,033	77,533	12,540	75,033	77,533
Greece	925	12,268	13,180	925	12,268	13,180
Italy(*)	583	7,251	7,370	583	7,251	7,370
Lithuania	3,072	13,646	15,011	3,072	13,646	15,011
Mexico	2,175	12,528	12,728	2,175	12,528	12,728
New Zealand(*)	160,327	1,093,924	1,104,755	160,327	1,093,924	1,104,755
Poland	6,873	31,304	32,888	6,873	31,304	32,888
Portugal	1,230	7,208	7,448	1,230	7,208	7,448
Russia	5,107	25,093	27,602	5,107	25,093	27,602
Saudi Arabia	790	6,517	6,606	790	6,517	6,606
Spain	19,755	158,690	164,115	19,755	158,690	164,115
Taiwan	650	2,895	2,999	650	2,895	2,999
Turkey	11,913	79,211	81,429	11,913	79,211	81,429

FLAVORED HONEY –

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,040	3,186	3,389	1,040	3,186	3,389
China	5,625	28,444	29,308	5,625	28,444	29,308
India	20,855	47,850	49,650	20,855	47,850	49,650
Ireland	203	2,325	2,569	203	2,325	2,569
Italy(*)	420	12,115	12,502	420	12,115	12,502
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	180	22,877	22,977
Korea, South	28,929	506,617	517,256	28,929	506,617	517,256
Mexico	9,361	82,100	83,068	9,361	82,100	83,068
New Zealand(*)	31	4,587	4,685	31	4,587	4,685
Russia	2,600	4,542	4,996	2,600	4,542	4,996

ORGANIC HONEY –

Brazil	921,453	3,802,786	3,948,712	921,453	3,802,786	3,948,712
Canada	5,178	43,030	44,052	5,178	43,030	44,052
Greece	384	5,284	5,406	384	5,284	5,406
Italy(*)	1,194	17,963	18,349	1,194	17,963	18,349
Mexico	951	3,072	3,163	951	3,072	3,163

GRAND TOTAL	11,360,281	39,856,667	41,342,340	11,360,281	39,856,667	41,342,340

Notes:

1. **Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics**
2. **All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.**
3. **(*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.**
4. **Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.**
5. **The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.**
6. **Product Group : Harmonized**